

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – November 5, 2014

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna Longo DiMichele, Russell Franks, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Michael Hebert, Marlene Lopes, Dave Maslyn, and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Maria Bernier, Peggy Long, and Marilyn Massaro.

Meeting called to order: 10:05 a.m.

I Minutes of meeting – May 7, 2014

DiMichele moved to approve the minutes. Cywin seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II Update on the Rhode Island Digital Portal (HELIN-led initiative)

DiMichele reported that OLIS had provided LSTA grant monies to the Rhode Island Digital Portal project for the Portal's planning phase, which will be facilitated by LYRISIS. The first long-term goal is portal development, which will be a hub to link cultural institutions. There is

a 10-member steering committee and six working groups whose purpose is to collaborate with libraries, cultural institutions, government repositories and other stakeholders to gather information for a grant to create a statewide digital repository for Rhode Island. One working group is presently doing an inventory of the digital assets of cultural institutions. The RHODI Project is also on the steering committee and plans on working with the smaller repositories. Franks explained that the project includes aggregating content into www.knowri.org (presently a beta site). Stearn asked Franks and Lopes whether the site will ingest content or point to content on organizations' websites. Franks responded that the site will ingest metadata only.

III NHPRC grants status

Stearn presented an update on the status of two RI grant applications that were not funded by the NHPRC (The Redwood Library and the Providence City Archives). Stearn also remarked that the Steamship Historical Society of America applied for a grant and intended respond to questions and comments posed by NHPRC staff and other evaluators, including the RIHRAB. She also commented that the Newport Preservation Society is seeking a grant, but if possible, will tap local sources in the first instance.

IV Board 2015 meeting dates, membership and vacancy

Stearn proposed the following meeting dates for 2015: January 7, March 4, May 6, September 2, and November 4. Members agreed to the proposed dates. She also inquired whether those members whose term would expire in January would be willing to have their names put forward to the new Governor for reappointment (Cywin, Hebert, Lopes). All agreed. Also addressed was the resignation of Marilyn Massaro. Members examined and discussed the makeup of the Board, including what qualifications were to be considered in light of the present makeup, with an eye to more inclusive representation. Members agreed to consider potential candidates at the January 2015 meeting, which could then be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

V The Rhode Island Museum Property Act

Stearn informed members about the Rhode Island Museum Property Act (§ 34-44.1) enacted during the 2013 legislative session. The purpose of the act is to supply the means for museums, historical societies, parks, historic sites, monuments, archives, libraries & etc. to gain ownership of “tangible objects” in their possession that were deposited or loaned, but without title to the property. Stearn further explained that the language of the original law did not exempt state or municipal property. An amendment was introduced and passed during the 2014 legislative session rectifying this. (2014 Public Law, Chapter

069:

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/PublicLaws/law14/law14069.htm>

VI Updating the Board's strategic plan

Stearn discussed the need to update the Board's strategic plan in consideration of possibly applying for a NHPRC grant.

VII News and announcements

Franks announced that Providence College Special Collections has an agreement with the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>) to digitize portions of the John E. Fogarty Collection connected to healthcare in the 1960s. The project will be part of the Profiles in Science series. Franks expressed his hope that this project will act as a springboard for funding future digitization projects.

Stearn recapped the latest activities surrounding the preservation and re-encasement of the 1663 Royal Charter.

Dave Maslyn has retired as Dean of University Libraries at URI. Cheryl McCarthy is Interim Dean.

Lopes announced that Tovah Reis is the Interim Library Director at Rhode Island College and Kieran Ayton is the Emerging Technologies Librarian.

Olga Verbeek is the Acting Director of the McKillop Library at Salve Regina University.

DiMichele informed members of the passing of Rick Greenwood, Deputy Director of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. In addition to his distinguished career, Greenwood had been actively engaged in the Protecting the Past – RI initiative.

DiMichele also reported on a new effort for the City of Newport to be included on the UN World Heritage site list. OLIS has a seat on the committee appointed by Governor Chafee under Executive Order No. 14-03 (October 21, 2014).

Cywin discussed her role on the Washington, D.C. based IMLS grants review board.

VIII Adjournment

Maslyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Lopes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Amended and approved March 4, 2015